

**New Zealand white rabbits
(n = 16)**

**Control mechanical ventilation
with BIPAP at baseline**

Ventilator settings:
P_I resulting in a VT 10-15 ml/kg; **RR**
adjusted to maintain PaCO₂ within
35-60 mmHg; **FiO₂**= 0.5; **PEEP** = 2
cmH₂O; **I:E**= 1:1.

randomize

**Control Ventilation Group
(n = 8)**

**Control ventilation with
BIPAP for 8 hours**

Ventilator settings:
Same as baseline

**Sacrifice
(n = 8)**

**Spontaneous Breathing Group
(n = 8)**

**Spontaneous breathing with
BIPAP for 8 hours**

Ventilator settings:
RR adjusted to 30 breaths/min to
regain unsupported spontaneous
breathings in any phase of BIPAP
mode; **P_I**, **FiO₂**, **PEEP** and **I:E**
were the same as baseline.

**Sacrifice
(n = 8)**